

Edison

Neighborhood Association

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April 10, 2013

State of Michigan
Attorney General Bill Schuette
G. Mennen Williams Building, 7th Floor
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909

Dept. of Attorney General
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**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

Dear Attorney General Schuette:

On behalf of the Edison Neighborhood Association I am writing to ask for your help in convincing the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to completely remove the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Allied Paper Mill site instead of leaving it in an unsafe pile in our neighborhood, in a floodplain area and directly over our city's water supply which provides water to nine other communities.

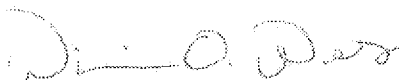
The Edison Neighborhood Association (ENA) became aware of the contamination in early 2007 when the USEPA held a meeting in Plainwell and announced that more PCB's were going to be added to the Allied Paper Mill Site. Prior to this meeting, ENA had assumed that the Allied site had been cleaned up in the 1990's. We worked with several groups, elected officials, and municipalities holding vigils, public marches, writing letters and hosting telephone campaigns. We did whatever we could to get attention on this issue and eventually we were successful in getting this decision changed and the PCB's from Plainwell placed in an approved landfill near Detroit. Since that time the Edison Neighborhood Association has had a representative at every meeting in our area hosted by the USEPA. We have participated and taken a great interest in watching the many clean-up efforts that have occurred, including Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River. We partnered with the City of Kalamazoo to create the Portage Creek Reuse Plan in 2009 (see internet link.) http://www.kalamazoo-city.org/docs/PCCRP/May_2009-Portage_Creek_Corridor_Reuse_Plan.pdf

The Edison Neighborhood Association (ENA) was established in 1968 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and has considered all of the characteristics that support improving the quality of life for the people who live and work in the Edison Neighborhood. The purpose of the ENA is to further the common good and general welfare of the residents of the Edison Neighborhood through civic betterment activities such as: combating neighborhood crime and promoting public safety, encouraging economic development and employment, promoting neighborhood/urban planning, supporting efforts to improve the quality of life and human services, and promotes efforts to provide and upgrade housing. Per the 2000 Census Tract there are over 9,000 residents living here.

We understand now that the USEPA is about to make a decision that includes piling up all of the PCB's on the site, putting a top cap (not a bottom cap) on it and keeping all of that land fenced in and unusable forever. We don't believe that this is the correct decision for the progress of the over 9,000 low/moderate income residents that have been working so diligently over the years to create a neighborhood of choice. We would prefer to see this property used for multiple purposes, cleaned up completely to create a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your support in this. Please feel free to contact me at the information above if you have any questions, would like more information, or just to chat about the possibilities.

Sincerely,



William Wells
Board of Trustees President



Tammy Taylor
Executive Director